

Mineral Industry Surveys

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TUNGSTEN IN JULY 2016

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder, was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. imports of selected materials in January through July 2016 was 17% less than the revised quantity imported during the same period in 2015 (table 2). The amount of tungsten contained in U.S. exports of selected materials in January through July 2016 was 23% less than the revised quantity exported during the same period in 2015 (table 3).

Prices

Prices for July 2016 were sourced from Platts Metals Week. The following prices, in dollars per metric ton unit, were

converted from short-ton-unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar.

Ammonium paratungstate, U.S. free market:

Low—\$193/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$175/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$204/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$185/short ton unit WO₃)

Concentrates:

Low—\$141/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$128/short ton unit WO₃)

High—\$143/metric ton unit WO₃ (\$130/short ton unit WO₃)

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TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate				Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period		Net production ^{p, 4}	Stocks, end of period	
			Industry ²	U.S. Government ³		Industry Producer ^{p, 5}	U.S. Government ³
2015:							
July	W	354	W	11,600	W	571	125
August	W	219	W	11,600	W	578	125
September	W	344	W	11,600	W	567	125
October	W	382	W	11,600	W	550	125
November	W	352	W	11,600	W	552	125
December	W	308	W	11,600	W	493	125
January–December	W	3,970	W	11,600	W	493	125
2016:							
January	W	393	W	11,600	W	496	125
February	W	127	W	11,600	W	538	125
March	W	384	W	11,600	W	615	125
April	W	372	W	11,600	W	592	125
May	W	252	W	11,600	W	490	125
June	W	256	W	11,600	W	537	125
July	W	180	W	11,600	W	531	125
January–July	W	1,960	W	11,600	W	531	125

^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Reported by consumers.

³Data from the Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials.

⁴Net production of tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder.

⁵Data for tungsten metal powder and tungsten carbide powder reported by producers. Includes estimates.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concentrates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferrotungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ²	Total	Total, year to date
2015	3,970	1,270	269	1,110	659	1,280	8,560	XX
2016:								
May	252	80	8	80	125	113	658	3,440
June	256	32	4	97	26	148	563	4,000
July:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	121
Austria	--	--	--	1	46	3	49	230
Bolivia	11	--	--	--	--	--	11	550
Brazil	6	--	--	--	--	--	6	20
Canada	--	--	--	12	1	(3)	12	102
China	--	18	12	30	6	47	113	1,340
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	(3)	(3)	24
Finland	--	--	--	(3)	--	--	(3)	23
France	--	--	--	--	1	(3)	1	7
Germany	--	83	--	1	2	2	87	346
Hong Kong	--	--	--	10	--	--	10	11
India	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	7
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	48
Japan	--	--	--	1	(3)	4	5	68
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	7	6	(3)	12	129
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Mongolia	38	--	--	--	--	--	38	195
Peru	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Portugal	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	297
Russia	--	--	4	--	--	(3)	4	133
Spain	73	--	--	--	--	--	73	463
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	12
United Kingdom	17	--	--	(3)	--	1	18	184
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	151
Other	--	--	--	(3)	--	3	3	10
Total	180	101	15	62	61	64	484	4,490
January–July	1,960	523	176	609	414	799	4,490	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes other unwrought tungsten, wrought tungsten, calcium and other tungstates, tungsten oxides, tungsten chlorides, other tungsten compounds, ash and residues containing mainly tungsten, and other mixtures of inorganic compounds containing tungsten. Tungsten content estimated in part.

³Less than ½ unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in July 2016 totaled 133 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 832 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Ores and concentrates ²	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder ²	Tungsten carbide powder	Other ³	Total	Total, year to date
2015	398	310	312	901	1,200	3,120	XX
2016:							
May	(4)	14	32	72	68	186	981
June	45	(4)	38	45	126	254	1,230
July:							
Australia	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	17
Austria	--	--	--	15	20	35	74
Brazil	(4)	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	1	8
Canada	--	--	4	13	29	46	336
Chile	--	--	(4)	1	--	1	5
China	1	--	--	(4)	(4)	1	27
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	7	7	12
Czech Republic	--	--	--	9	--	9	48
Denmark	--	--	--	1	--	1	3
France	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Germany	(4)	--	2	19	4	24	236
India	--	--	16	(4)	(4)	17	83
Indonesia	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	4
Ireland	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	15
Israel	--	--	--	--	12	12	12
Italy	--	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	5
Japan	--	--	1	3	4	7	83
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	1	2	3	16
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	10
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	2	2	5
Mexico	--	2	1	--	13	16	104
Netherlands	--	--	1	--	18	19	75
Peru	--	1	(4)	(4)	--	2	7
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	4
Singapore	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	1	43
South Africa	--	--	(4)	--	--	(4)	4
Spain	--	--	--	--	3	3	26
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	(4)	2	95
Thailand	--	--	--	(4)	(4)	(4)	12
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	(4)	1	1	6
United Kingdom	--	--	(4)	1	(4)	2	21
Vietnam	34	--	--	--	(4)	34	63
Other	--	(4)	(4)	1	1	2	16
Total	35	4	28	66	115	248	1,480
January–July	90	98	197	405	692	1,480	XX

XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

³Includes unwrought tungsten, including bars and rods obtained simply by sintering, wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in July 2016 totaled 5 metric tons, tungsten content, to give a January–July total of 181 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.